AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claim set to read as follows:

1-67. (Canceled)

68. (Previously presented) A polymer matrix composition for plastics applications comprising:

(a) a pigment, said pigment comprising an inorganic pigmentary base that has been treated with an organo-acid phosphate compound having the formula:

$(R\text{-}O)_xPO(OH)_y$

wherein x = 1 or 2,
y = 3 – x, and
R is an organic group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms; and

(b) a polymer,

wherein said polymer matrix has an essential absence of water and an essential absence of organic solvents.

69. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, copolymers of ethylene with alpha-olefins containing 4 to 12 carbon atoms, polypropylene, polycarbonates and polystyrene.

70. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 69, wherein said polymer is polyethylene.

71. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein said pigment comprises 50 – 85% by weight of the polymer matrix based on the weight of the polymer matrix.

72. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein R is an organic group having six carbon atoms.

73. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein R is an organic group having eight carbon atoms.

74. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein R is 2-ethylhexyl-.

75. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein the pigmentary base is selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide, kaolin, talc, mica and calcium carbonate.

76. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 75, wherein the pigmentary base is titanium dioxide.

77. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 68, wherein the amount of organo-acid phosphate compound in the pigment is from about 0.01 percent to about 5 percent by weight, based on the weight of the pigmentary base.

78. (Previously presented) A polymer matrix composition for plastics applications comprising:

(a) a pigment, said pigment comprising an inorganic pigmentary base that has been treated with an organo-acid phosphate compound having the formula:

$(R\text{-}O)_xPO(OH)_y$

wherein $x = 1$ or 2,
$y = 3 - x$, and

R is an organic group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms;

(b) a polymer; and

(c) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of metal oxides, polyalcohols and alkanolamines,

wherein said polymer matrix has an essential absence of water and an essential absence of organic solvents.

79. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, copolymers of ethylene with alpha-olefins containing 4 to 12 carbon atoms, polypropylene, polycarbonates and polystyrene.

80. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 79, wherein said polymer is polyethylene.

81. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein said pigment comprises 50 – 85% by weight of the polymer matrix based on the weight of the polymer matrix.

82. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein R is an organic group having six carbon atoms.

83. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein R is an organic group having eight carbon atoms.

84. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein R is 2-ethylhexyl-.

85. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein the pigmentary base is selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide, kaolin, talc, mica and calcium carbonate.

86. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 85, wherein the pigmentary base is titanium dioxide.

87. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein the amount of organo-acid phosphate compound in the pigment is from about 0.01 percent to about 5 percent by weight, based on the weight of the pigmentary base.

88. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein the compound of (c) is a metal oxide and the metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of aluminum oxide, silicon dioxide and zirconium oxide.

89. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein the compound of (c) is a polyalcohol and the polyalcohol is selected from the group consisting of trimethylolethane and trimethylolpropane.

90. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 78, wherein the compound of (c) is an alkanolamine.

91. (Previously presented) The polymer matrix of claim 90, wherein the alkanolamine is triethanolamine.

92. (Previously presented) A polymer matrix composition for use in plastics applications comprising:

(a) a pigment, said pigment comprising a titanium dioxide base that has been treated with an organo-acid phosphate compound having the formula:

$(R\text{-}O)_xPO(OH)_y$

wherein x = 1 or 2,
y = 3 – x, and
R is an organic group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms; and

(b) polyethylene,

wherein said polymer matrix has an essential absence of water and an essential absence of organic solvents.

93. (Previously presented) A polymer matrix composition for use in plastics applications comprising:

(a) a pigment, said pigment comprising a titanium dioxide base that has been treated with an organo-acid phosphate compound having the formula:

$(R\text{-}O)_xPO(OH)_y$

wherein x = 1 or 2,
y = 3 – x, and
R is an organic group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms;

(b) polyethylene; and

(c) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of metal oxides, polyalcohols and alkanolamines,

wherein said polymer matrix has an essential absence of water and an essential absence of organic solvents.

94. (Canceled)

95. (Canceled)